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**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

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October 1, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W. *Marvin J. Southard (RK)*  
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) SKID ROW SERVICES –  
QUARTERLY REPORT**

In response to your Board's April 3, 2007 motion instructing the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to take several actions related to efforts to reduce homelessness in Skid Row in coordination with communities outside of Skid Row, attached is the second progress report on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) community-based services and supports planned for Skid Row.

We will continue to provide quarterly reports, as instructed.

MJS:TB:MM:LH:bjj

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer  
Deputy, Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT  
SKID ROW SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT**

**October 1, 2007**

On April 3, 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) request to utilize Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding to implement the following programs:

- Crisis Resolution Service (CRS) at the Downtown Mental Health Center (DMHC) that will provide short term, intensive, mental health and supportive services, including comprehensive assessment.
- Skid Row Management Team (SRMT) to provide overall administration, management and coordination of existing services, and the development of new services in collaboration with local stakeholder planning groups.
- Contracted Wellness Center for the Skid Row area to serve individuals who no longer require intensive mental health services. The Department will issue a Request for Services this month, and will return to the Board for approval when a contractor has been selected for recommendation.
- Directly Operated Wellness Center in the Skid Row area will be implemented during Fiscal Year 2007-2008. This program will serve clients that have reached a higher level of wellness and recovery and require additional, ongoing supports to sustain those gains, and to further integrate into the community.

DMH MHSA funded services in the Skid Row area serve individuals in need of integrated mental health services and supports. New services provided also include a Full Service Partnership (FSP) program and a Service Area Navigator Team (SANT).

**Full Service Partnerships (FSP)**

The DMHC FSP program, implemented in December 2006, will serve a maximum of 180 consumers at any given time. Currently, 92 individuals are enrolled in the FSP program, and we anticipate that the program will be fully enrolled by the end of the first quarter of the next calendar year. The outcomes described below indicate the DMHC FSP program has already been extremely successful in its efforts to reduce homelessness, incarcerations and acute psychiatric hospitalizations.

- 96% decrease in days of homelessness in the year prior to enrollment compared with the period since enrollment in the program



- 73% decrease in days of incarceration in the year prior to enrollment compared with the period since enrollment in the program.
- 19% decrease in the days of hospitalization for psychiatric reasons in the year prior to enrollment compared with the period since enrollment in the program.

As noted, the outcome data to date clearly reflects the effectiveness of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) approach employed by the DMHC FSP Team with a consumer population that had previously faced challenges in accessing and engaging in treatment programs. The result is progress in wellness and recovery efforts and appreciable savings to multiple County department budgets.

### **Service Area Navigator Teams (SANT)**

The SANT in Service Area (SA) 4, which includes DMHC and the Skid Row area, assists individuals of all ages in need of mental health and other supportive services to access the appropriate level and type of services. SANT has been developing linkages with various community-based organizations in order to refer individuals in the Skid Row area to an array of services. SANT services include:

- Outreach and engagement for individuals, families and community based agencies to enhance access to mental health services.
- Participation in SA Impact Units that enroll individuals into mental health programs such as FSPs, ACT or Assembly Bill (AB) 2034 programs, or provide linkage to other community-based services.

Currently, SANT is linking individuals to newly implemented FSPs that enable individuals in need of these intensive, integrated services to access them in a timely manner. Since implementation in January 2007, SANT has:

- Received over three hundred fifty (350) referrals for adults and young adults from throughout the SA for outreach, engagement and enrollment into FSP or one of the other intensive programs. Since July 1, 2007 SANT received an additional one hundred six (106) adults referrals.
- Received over one hundred seventy six (176) referrals from various sources in the Skid Row area such as DMHC and the Union Rescue Mission. Received an additional 81 adult referrals and an additional seventy-eight (78) TAY referrals from the Skid Row area since July 2007.

- Enrolled approximately one hundred (100) individuals living in the Skid Row area in a FSP, ACT, or other programs. Have enrolled an additional eighteen (18) adults and twenty-five (25) TAY in FSP.

Some of the outcomes of efforts in the Skid Row area include:

- One hundred (100) clients enrolled in either FSPs or other intensive programs (e.g. ACT and AB 2034) have been successfully housed in permanent housing/long-term housing with the assistance of the program or are applying for permanent/long-term housing. Mental health staff assist in the completion of housing applications, help people to enter shelter care until permanent/long-term housing is found, assist in obtaining benefits to pay for housing and assist in identifying housing locations.
- Thirty-five (35) clients referred for services have refused services or have been determined to need other levels of care or types of services. An additional 19 adults and an additional 6 TAY have declined FSP services when offered since July 2007.
- Forty (40) individuals residing in the Skid Row area are currently receiving outreach and engagement services. An additional thirty-two (32) adults and seventeen (17) TAY are receiving outreach and engagement services since July 2007.
- An additional two (2) adults and fourteen (14) TAY were referred to other service areas since July 2007.

### **Housing Trust Fund**

A Countywide Housing Trust Fund of \$11.5 million has been established to support the development of new permanent supportive housing for people with psychiatric disabilities. The Housing Trust Fund will provide funds for on-site supportive services and/or project-based operating subsidies for supportive housing projects and scattered site supportive services for shared housing projects. The DMH Director has appointed a Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board which serves as an official advisory body to DMH on all MHSA housing initiatives. In May, 2007 this body finalized its funding criteria and principles recommendations to DMH which will be used to inform and assist the Department in making decisions. The Department is in the process of developing a Housing Trust Fund Request for Proposals which is projected to be released in the fall, 2007.



### **Housing Development**

Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Housing Corporation was recently notified that they have been awarded \$5.2 million through the Governor's Homeless Initiative to develop the Winston Apartments, a 40 unit permanent supportive housing project. The \$5.2 million will include funding for capital development and a capitalized operating reserve. As a condition of funding, the Governor's Homeless Initiative required that local county mental health departments would have to commit MHSA funds for the provision of mental health services or FSP level services for the residents of the funded units. The Department of Mental Health, through DMHC's FSP Program has committed to provide mental health services to jointly outreached residents of the Winston Apartments.

SRO Housing Corporation has secured \$ 14.6 million through various funding sources including Los Angeles Housing Department's Permanent Supportive Housing Program, Los Angeles County's Community Development Commission and Tax Credits for the development of the James Woods Apartments. The James Woods Apartments will include 53 units of which 31 units will be for the special needs population-chronically homeless with a mental illness. DMHC's FSP Program will collaborate with SRO Housing Corporation to provide mental health services for jointly outreached residents of the 31 restrictive units.

### **Crisis Resolution Services (CRS)/Skid Row Management Team (SRMT)**

DMH has made significant progress since the last report, having received hiring authority from Chief Executive Office Classification Section for thirty-six of the originally requested thirty-seven positions (29 of 29 items for the CRS and 7 of 8 items for SRMT). The Department has appointed an Acting District Chief to coordinate the transition from SA wide leadership to local management oversight, and hired a Program Head to lead the CRS program to facilitate the hiring of direct services staff. As of this writing, approximately one-half of the staff allocated for the CRS have been identified or brought on board and have begun orientation and training for this new service. At the culmination of training, we will begin a phase-in of the CRS program.

The Acting District Chief and Chief of Medical Services of the SRMT continue to regularly meet with local Skid Row stakeholder groups, including the Skid Row Community Advisory Board and the Skid Row Homeless Healthcare Initiative to facilitate community service planning to ensure an integrated health delivery system in the Skid Row area including primary health, substance abuse treatment and mental health services. The Department has identified additional outcome measures and tracking which will include the reporting data related to persons who refuse medical

treatment for drug and alcohol abuse. That information will be reported to the Board upon full implementation of the CRS which we expect to occur during the next quarter.

In summary, the Department has made significant progress during this quarter towards the goals of reducing homelessness, acute psychiatric hospitalizations, and incarceration while promoting recovery and community reintegration for persons in need of mental health services and supports in Skid Row. The Department will continue to provide progress reports as instructed.